

# The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

## The Home Woman, the Mother, the Wife and Sister

The Book News Monthly has a series of charming articles regarding Mrs. Amelia Barr, one of the best-known and most beloved women in America through her literary work. Among the tributes paid Mrs. Barr in Book News is one so sincere that it is repeated here for other women to read, it says in part:

Women all over the world call her friend. Speak her name among a gathering of both men and women, and watch the effect. Pleasant smiles and kindly words are sure to be the result. There are few who live the simple life as Mrs. Barr does, and who yet touch life in a thousand ways outside the home.

Up early, daintily gowned and with a cheery good morning, she begins each day. Her dining room is one of the pleasantest rooms imaginable, full of sunshine, lifting through rose and honeysuckle vines, in which the birds build every summer. There is never any haste about a meal at Mrs. Barr's, for she is such a delightful talker that her family linger as long as possible.

Mrs. Barr never makes a social call, but no day passes without many guests, some of them from far away, coming to Cherry Croft, the beautiful home of the authoress at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson. Those who are not privileged to come to her write, and words of help and advice often go out from her to those asking and in need.

Mrs. Barr is the daughter of an English clergyman. She is in her eightieth year, but she works from six to eight hours a day, and keeps a diary, "test," as she says, "I should forget God's help and goodness."

When Mrs. Barr was just twenty-two years old she came with her husband and two children to the United States. Her husband did service for the Confederate government during the War Between the States in Austin, Tex., with the rank of major. When the official paper and envelopes gave out during the two last years of the war, Mrs. Barr ruled the paper and herself made envelopes for the government.

It was at this time that Mrs. Barr began to write stories for the amusement of her children. The close of the war left her a widow with three children. She naturally turned to literature as a means of support, went to New York and found what she sought. Her books have made her known throughout the United States, and today she eminently deserves what is said of her, that she is carrying her burdens bravely and trusting implicitly that she may have strength given her to work until her end comes.

In regard to her apparel, it is told of Mrs. Barr that her home dress is very individual, a flowing gown of some soft color, with loose sleeves to the elbow, that leave arms and hands free. She always wears a cap that is a loose knit of lace and ribbons, or sometimes a wisp, in memory of old England. Mrs. Barr has a truly feminine feeling for clothes, and rare old lace is a temptation to her.

### Conquerors of Themselves.

One day the boy of the household, whose name was Billy, showed marked depression of spirits.

His mother, whose experience with boys had warned her of occasions when it was a case of "do better or do nothing at all," waited for the situation to develop, and at last the silence was broken. Slowly, seriously, solemnly, Billy said, regarding the loss of a cricket match:

"Mother, God was on the side of the bad boys and they won. You see, we fellows thought we would try awfully hard and not get mad or cheat or say bad words. And not one fellow did. And the other fellows did—like fury. I guess they swore. And they won and we were licked. God was on their side all right, and it's unfair."

Ordinary comfort and explanation availed nothing. The fact remained. The faithful little band that tried to do right had been beaten by the rough little crowd that didn't care anything at all about it. God was on the side of might, not right. This was self-evident and did not admit of explanation; and who wants comfort for injustice? Not Billy. After awhile father came in, and before Billy saw him mother had presented the case.

"Oh, but I heard there were two contests; which did you win?"

"Why, I don't know what you mean, father."

"Mother told me about it. She told me you lost the match, but you won the big, important thing; you didn't cheat, did you? You were as good as yourselves and conquered all the anger and unfairness and bad language. Congratulations old fellow! You won out, and I am proud of you."

Billy's face was slowly undergoing a change. It was growing once more interested, happy and hopeful. "Why, that's so, dad," he said joyfully, after a minute. "I didn't see that. And God was on our side after all, wasn't He?"

"Greater is he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city," said the father with a smile.—The Congregationalist.

### Honor's Roll Call.

May is memorial month, when the annual tribute to the heroic dead who perished upon the battlefield in defense of their native State are remembered in Virginia. The women of Virginia have kept Memorial Day, since 1866, and above the sod covering the bodies of those whose names are written on Honor's roll-call will this May be heaped the flowers that keep fragrant their heroic deeds. In the hearts of those who have come after them.

The great French soldier De Lauro d'Auvergne, remaining by choice in the ranks, though he had been in the forefront of many battles, was rewarded by Napoleon with a sword and the official title of "The First Grenadier of France."

When death claimed him the Emperor commanded that to his regimental comrades should be entrusted the keeping of his fame, that his name should be cried aloud at every roll call, and his comrade next in arms should make answer, "Dead upon the field of honor."

Not one, but many heroes are memorialized in the May Day ceremony in Virginia. Many who, standing within the precincts of consecrated ground, will answer the call of each in flowers, that will say: "Dead upon the field of honor."



SMART BLOUSES FOR TAILORED SUITS.

L'Art de la Mode.

## What Dame Fashion Says About the Cleft Skirt

The whole world of fashion, serious-minded people and frivolous butterflies of fashion, have been drawn into the discussions as to the advisability or non-advisability of the trouser skirt. They have been christened "Jupe-culottes" in Paris, where Madame Paquin, supreme authority in matters of good taste, has decided that they do not carry out artistic conceptions in feminine costumes, and that only a minority among the fashionable class of womanhood, those who are always fond of the unconventional and audacious, will adopt a style representing eccentricity rather than originality.

The failure of the "Jupe-culotte," however, but accentuates the success of the cleft skirt, which is the sensation of the day, in such centres as Paris, where fancies of fashion take their start.

This skirt opens above the ankle to show the beauty of ravishing silk hose and absolutely correct shoes. The opening or cleft appears somewhat on the right and sometimes on the left side, a favored style being one in front and just above the left ankle, with a double motif in trimming, usually soft and filmy flounces imparting a charm that is more noticeable, because it has not been taken into account in the right, smooth fitting of the skirt during the winter and early spring.

A beautiful model shown in mauve chiffon cloth had a double flounce of Alencon lace, the upper flounce extending upward.

With this kind of skirt should go the lace-trimmed Directoire or Marie Antoinette corset and fichu. In the instance just mentioned violet silk stockings and dainty shoes of violet dooskin made a detectable finish to the toilet. The overwhelming tulle appears on the skirts of all evening gowns, and produces the effect of a

double train where hitherto there has been no train at all. Sometimes there seems to be a double pointed or square train and sometimes the two points are crossed so as to produce a specially happy effect, known as "the swallow-tail."

In coats, a novelty is found in the return of long postillion backs, jackets having extended panel ends reaching almost to the bottom of skirts in the back. With white gowns boleros finished with peplums, and harmonizing with the girlish of the dress in blue, violet or red are worn. Long redingotes coming almost to the hem of gowns are seen in a few tailored costumes. A gray satin redingote trimmed with gray silk braid is given exquisite coloring by bands of gray mouseline de soie veiled with mauve mouseline.

On spring frocks there is a passion for worsted flowers, scattered alike over linens, chiffons and point d'esprit, and for evening wear the vogue for headed nets with crystal bugles is unabated. Coral beads are a coming infatuation. When mixed with gray beads on smoke-gray voile, veiled with pink, the effect is delightful. Tiny ruffled roses outline borders of Marie Antoinette fichus, held in place ends of Alencon lace ribbons and ornament handsome silk and lace parasols.

Punch and gendarme shapes are popular for spring wear in hats. So are big manila straws, curved softly in front. These make charming frames for pretty faces of roses around the little karlands of roses around the brims. Black velvet is used around or on the crowns of these manila straws and a hat of this kind having clusters of moss roses to relieve the velvet garniture, looks extremely well with a frock that has a velvet girdle and a corseque bouquet of little moss roses.

Novelties in belts include white satin ones in black and white about five inches wide, with gold-pronged belt buckles. Quite different are the narrow patent leather belts laced through with white moire ribbon, which can be changed to any color harmonizing with the parson and hat of the wearer.

For smart footwear sailor and duchess ties are the "dernier cri." Leather-covered heels are prettier than wooden ones, though both are worn, the military heel being correct promenade wear and the Louis XV. heel preferred for the carriage.

## How to Give a Correct Luncheon

The question is asked how to give a correct luncheon, the hour and courses. One, or half-after, is the accepted time; the shades are drawn, and artificial lights used, as for an evening dinner. There is usually a centerpiece of flowers, although a fruit piece is sometimes substituted. Candles with shades to match the color scheme are used, and place cards, elaborate or simple, according to the taste and purse of the hostess.

In serving, a good rule to follow is a fruit, bouillon or light soup, a lamb chop, a chicken, oyster or sweetbread paté, potato or rice croquettes, olives, jelly or celery, radishes, a salad with wafers, and a dessert, followed by coffee, cheese and crackers. Many hostesses now serve some one of the popular cordials in tiny glasses, holding barely a thumb nail.

Pretty, light gowns are worn, high neck and elbow sleeves. In serving luncheons and in decorating during the summer months, try to have a menu as seasonable as possible, and use the delicate pastel shades, reserving red and heavy dishes for the winter months. Change the sombre draperies and elaborate pillow covers to ones of washable fabrics, and make life as easy and as bright as possible.

Indoors May Fete.

To keep up the semblance of an outside party, one hostess decorated the house with quantities of potted plants and branches of apple blossoms, put up hammocks and a swing or two, and asked a few intimate friends to come to a May picnic. She prepared a dainty dinner and ribbon tied basket for each couple, had several tables and all the appointments of a picnic, even to a fire in the big dining-room, with a kettle of water boiling on the crane, in which corn was cooked. Coffee was served in tin cups, and the guests were seated in lawn chairs, the girls, the men came in soft slippers and straw hats. After the supper there was a regular old-fashioned candy pull.

The candy was cut and wrapped in waxed paper and sent in small May baskets to a charitable institution in which the hostess was interested.

The Gospel of Labor.

This is the gospel of labor.

Ring it ye bells of the Kirk; The Lord of Love, came down from above.

To live with those who work; This is the rose He planted.

Here is the thorn-curst soil; Heaven is blessed with perfect rest, But the blessing of earth is toil.

Clung, baby, Irish and tetchon are

## For School and College Graduates Sweet Simplicity Predominates

The season is at hand when commencement frocks for graduates and undergraduates are matters of supreme importance to the modest and elders, deeply interested in the question of dainty and becoming frocks for the young girls, in whose lives commencement is a crowning epoch.

White is the choice of the greatest number of girl graduates, and is the most effective. But occasionally a class will break away from conventionality to choose for the wearing of its members soft, cool shades of pink, blue, green and lavender. The merging of tints in such choice is most harmonious.

Light and soft silk net of the wide-meshed variety may be employed to advantage in the fashioning of a commencement gown. Between the silk or satin foundation and the net a layer of chiffon cloth or mouseline de soie renders the net soft and cloud-like in appearance. A white silk net gown, with a deep band of satin around the bottom, and a wide satin panel falling down the back and forming a short train, is very pretty, especially if it has a high satin girdle, a net bodice trimmed with a lace yoke and a laced-edged fichu of net.

Among embroidered gowns for graduation purposes are those of white batiste, with open English work or a heavily filled pattern of embroidery. Voile has a great vogue this season, silk voile had marquisette being used in the handsomest costumes. But white cotton voile has alluring possibilities, and a young girl who cannot afford expensive materials could not do better than to choose cotton voile. If she has her gown made with a satin girdle, laced high, and a fish-tail satin panel down the back of her skirt, she will have no consciousness of having made a poor selection.

Long lace sash ends as a finish to a girle are especially pretty for light frocks, streamers being all of net, lace or sheer lawn, with an inch-wide ruffled edge. Thin crisp sash ends make a particularly good finish for the narrow, clinging skirts of the present moment.

Graduating classes should decide among themselves whether they will appear with frocks just touching the ground all around, or in trains, whether the sleeves of their gowns shall be long or short and whether the waists shall have high or Dutch necks. If these points are decided on and carried out by the class as a whole the effect produced is much prettier.

Clung, baby, Irish and tetchon are

Clung, baby, Irish and tetchon are

Clung, baby, Irish and tetchon are

Clung, baby, Irish and tetchon are

## Housekeeping on Business Principles

Women generally would do well to follow the example of a housekeeper whose business like ways of doing marketing inspired a story in the New York Evening Post to this effect:

A lawyer recently accompanied his wife to Harlem market, New York and utilized the time occupied by her in selecting and giving orders to look about him at other purchasers.

Among these was a woman who was buying meat in large quantities, and doing it in a leisurely and careful way that showed her exercise of good judgment and care, qualities most needed for a demand that she was meeting. The man grew much interested in looking on and hearing what passed between the dealer in meats and the buyer, and after she had gone away, he asked the former:

"Will you tell me the name of that woman? I consider her the best buyer I ever saw."

"She is Mrs. Blank," was the answer, and she keeps a large boarding house at a number almost opposite your residence. She makes personal inspection of every piece of meat that goes on her table and gets the best always, because it would be perfectly useless to offer her second best."

The inquiring lawyer had been a frequenter of boarding houses in the days of his bachelorhood, but this was the first time he had been so to speak, taken into intimate, if involuntary, confidence behind the screen. He had a new estimate and added respect for the class of women unintentionally bestowing the confidence, and made a resolution at once that, in a probable future domestic crisis, he would know where to take his meals.

Women would be spared much complaint and worry if they trained themselves in the knowledge of buying and exercised that knowledge for sanitary and economic reasons. To be a first-class buyer is a business requirement underlying all successful housekeeping.

### His Time for Leaving.

A funny story, that may be repeated in the experience of the average young society woman, concerns itself with a bashful young man who was visiting the girl of his preference when her father came into the drawing-room, holding his watch open in his hand. The young man, at the time of the father's entrance, had mounted a chair to straighten a picture hung above the piano.

"The father asked him gruffly: "Do you know what time it is?"

The young man got down immediately from the chair. "Yes sir," he answered, "I was just going."

And he went without further delay, merely pausing long enough in the hall to secure his hat and overcoat. Paterfamilias followed him, and as the caller fumbled the door knob, pater's voice came again insistently demanding: "Do you know what time it is?"

"Yes, sir," once more the youth answered, "goodnight." And then he ran down the steps before putting his overcoat on.

Pater looked more than a little surprised. He turned to his daughter to inquire: "What the deuce is the matter with that fellow? My watch ran down this afternoon and I wanted him to tell me the time so I could set it." The time was just 9:50 o'clock.

### The Three Essentials.

Not many of the women who have known Lucy Lacom through her literary work have imagined that she began life as a factory girl. Youth's Companion tells that when she was fourteen years old, she worked in a cotton mill at Lowell, Massachusetts. After she had been in the mill a short while, she received permission to have under her charge some frames near a window, through which she might look out on the picturesque banks of the Merrimac River.

After she had been for a little longer in her window nook she began to transform its appearance by pasting over the grimy paint clippings of verse, cut by her from magazines and newspapers as fell in her way.

So, gradually, Lucy Lacom, even in a factory, secured for herself, little by little, three essentials for human happiness, which are the same whether outside, and the poet's vision of beauty. No doubt, Lucy Lacom, like all girls, often found her work wearisome. Perhaps some of the poetry was not inspiring. But the outside world framed by the window pane, with its meadows and hills, must have been a constant refreshing and an uplift to the spiritual nature of a young woman, always desiring so ardently the best in the world in work as in all else.

### The Degenerate Sundew.

Women who have no ideas and independence of their own, who are dependent for all they do and say, on some strongly mental than their own, are strongly emblematic of a curious little marsh plant called the sundew.

A small fly alights on one of the leaves of the plant attracted by its crimson hairs, and by a sticky liquid called "dew." When the fly struggles to free itself, the sundew draws round and trap him, at the same time pouring out more of the dew. Presently the insect dies in the trap, because the dew is an acid which dissolves its body, so that the plant can absorb for its nourishment the nitrogen which the body contains.

The sundew was not always an idle degenerate. It belongs to the saxifrage family of plants, other members of which are respectable and hard working, getting their living by honest root work in extracting their nitrogen from the soil.

The sundew by contrast has scarcely anything worthy the name of a root. It long ago gave up the effort of thrusting its rootlets into the ground and finding its subsistence in a legitimate way. Instead it chooses to settle in a bog, where it could secure its water supply without trouble.

There, as its roots had nothing to do, or very little, they slowly dwindled away, until the sundew, that once was given work to do whether in plant life or life of women.

## The Master Cure for RHEUMATISM

"A Muller's Prescription 100384"

Used by Specialists and Known since 1861 as the one good medicine for deep-seated and apparently hopeless cases. A safe, speedy and reliable remedy for Rheumatism, Gout, Gravel, Neuritis, Sciatica, Lumbago, Catarrhs of the Bladder, etc. In all cases of Rheumatism, Gout and Gravel, it is the only remedy that will cure them. It is the only remedy that will cure them. It is the only remedy that will cure them.

At Druggists, 75c. Bottle. Booklet mailed free.

WM. H. MULLER, 352 Atlantic Ave. Bklyn. N.Y.

Formerly University Place, N. Y. Co.